

Examiner's Amendment

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Junqi Hang on May 27, 2010.

2. The application has been amended as follows from the claim set presented on 6/17/2009:

- a. In claim 1, line 5, insert --- and vitamins B6, B9 and B12 which are present in the range of 0.5-30 mg, 0.1-10 mg and 1-1500 µg/gram dry weight of the at least one carboxylic acid and/or its salt, respectively, wherein--- after "benzoic acid;"
- b. In claim 1, line 6, after "vitamins" insert --- are present ---
- c. In claim 1, line 8, delete [,] and insert --- ;--- after "metabolism"
- d. In claim 1, line 10, delete [and] after "of the supplement;"
- e. In claim 1, line 11, delete [,] and insert ---; and--- after "supplement"
- f. Claim 15 has been canceled without prejudice thereto.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record does not provide any direction for selecting the vitamins B6, B9 and B12 respectively in the range of 0.5-30 mg, 0.1-10 mg and 1-1500 µg/gram dry weight of the at least one carboxylic acid and/or its salt, and the total of the B6, B9 and B12 vitamins in a combined amount of 10-50 mg/gram dry weight of the supplement with the specific amounts and ranges of the carboxylic acid, iron, as currently recited. As described in the instant specification and factually verified in the working examples, these amounts unexpectedly improve performance by compensating for the loss of said B vitamins due to carboxylic acid metabolism.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to GIGI HUANG whose telephone number is (571)272-9073. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 8:30AM-6:00PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Fredrick Krass can be reached on 571-272-0580. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/GiGi Huang/
Examiner, Art Unit 1612

/Frederick Krass/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1612